

## Message Text

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TAGS: SCUL SOPN HU US  
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL PRESS COMMENTARY ON RETURN OF CROWN

REF: (A) STATE 6662 (B) BUDAPEST 0218

1. SUMMARY. CATHOLIC WEEKLY'S FAVORABLE COMMENTS ON RETURN OF CROWN OF ST STEPHEN ARE REPORTED ALONG WITH SUMMARY OF MTI CORRESPONDENT ISTVAN KOVACS' REPORT NOTING THAT RIGHTIST HUNGARIAN EMIGRATION IN U.S. HAD DISCREDITED ITSELF BY TRYING TO OBSTRUCT CROWN'S RETURN.

2. UJ EMBER HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY IN A SHORT ARTICLE ON JAN 15, COMMENTING ON THE RETURN OF THE CROWN. "WHAT REALLY BROUGHT HOME OUR NATIONAL TREASURES WAS THE APPRECIATION OF THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S WORK IN BUILDING THEIR HOME AND PEACE AND THE RECOGNITION AND CONFIDENCE TOWARD CURRENT HUNGARIAN STATE MANAGEMENT. THIS (EVENT) SHOWED THE POWER OF THE WORLD TO PRODUCE JUSTICE . . ." UJ EMBER ALSO SAID THAT WHOLE COUNTRY SHARED FEELINGS OF THOSE INSIDE THE PARLIAMENT AT MOMENT OF CROWN'S RETURN. IT ADDS THAT THERE WAS A RECOGNITION THAT WE CAN HAVE COMMON AFFAIRS IN WHICH WE CAN COOPERATE AND IN WHICH NO ONE CAN SEPARATE US.

3. ON FEB 12, UJ EMBER HAD FURTHER BRIEF COMMENT.  
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IT SAID NATIONAL INTEREST HAS NOT DECREASED YET. IT REFERRED TO ISTVAN NEMESKURTY'S ARTICLE (REF (B), PARA 7) AND WENT ON TO CITE NEMESKURTY CONCERNING HOW THE CROWN HAS BEEN A SYMBOL OF POWER OF THE HUNGARIAN NATION AND, SINCE BESTOWED BY THE PEOPLE, A SYMBOL OF LEGITIMACY OF HUNGARY'S RULERS. AFTER QUOTING ST PAUL TO EFFECT EVERY POWER DERIVES FROM

GOD, UJ EMBER CONCLUDES THAT "WITH THE HOLY CROWN AND THE CORONATION REGALIA NOT ONLY MUSEUM PIECES OR CHURCH RELICS RETURNED TO THE POSSESSION OF THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE BUT THE ETERNAL BADGES OF HUNGARIAN STATEHOOD AND INDEPENDENCE."

4. ON JAN 29, ISTVAN KOVACS, NEPSZABADSAG'S CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON, WROTE IN HIS PAPER THAT DESPERATE REAR-GUARD ACTION OF THE AMERICAN-HUNGARIAN "RIGHTIST EMIGRATION" WAS FINISHED BY THE RETURN OF THE CROWN. HE ARGUED THAT THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CROWN'S RETURN SHOWED BETTER THAN ANY TIME EARLIER THAT THE "RIGHTIST" EMIGRES WERE ONLY A SMALL NOISY EXTREMIST GROUP. KOVACS CONTINUES DESCRIBING IN UNSYMPATHETIC TERMS THE EFFORTS TO STOP THE CROWN'S RETURN AND IN PASSING NOTES SUPPORT GIVEN BY A FEW AMERICAN POLITICANS WHO WANTED TO MAKE POLITICAL CAPITAL. HE SAID JOURNALISTS WHO ATTENDED A PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY "RIGHTIST" FIGURES "COULD NOT BELIEVE THEIR EARS" AND GAVE THE "RIGHTISTS" LITTLE CREDENCE. BUT KOVACS STATED A PREDOMINANT MAJORITY OF AMERICAN-HUNGARIANS APPROVED AND WELCOMED THE RETURN OF THE CROWN. HE CONCLUDED. "THE RESULT OF THE TWO-MONTH LONG DEBATE (OVER CROWN'S RETURN) WAS THAT IT STRENGTHENED THE PROGRESSIVE TENDENCIES AMONG AMERICAN-HUNGARIANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL

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RESPECT OF OUR COUNTRY INCUREASED IN THE EYES OF THE MAJORITY OF THE EMIGRATION AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC."

5. FINALLY, WE NOTE A LENGTHY ARTICLE IN THE LITERARY JOURNAL "ELET ES IRODALOM" BY IVAN BOLDISZAR WHICH APPEARED ONE WEEK AFTER THE CROWN'S RETURN. BOLDISZAR RECREATED HIS EXPERIENCES ON THE DAY OF THE CROWN'S RETURN, INTERSPERSING HIS NARRATIVE WITH ANECDOTE AND REMINISCENCES. HE PRODUCED A PIECE DESIGNED TO GIVE OTHER HUNGARIANS THE VICARIOUS EMOTIONAL SENSE OF HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THE CROWN RETURN CEREMONIES.

6. COMMENT: IN MONTH FOLLOWING THE CROWN CEREMONIES ALL PRESS COMMENTARY CONTINUED FAVORABLE, RESPECTFUL OF CROWN AND THE UNDERSTANDINGS WHICH SURROUNDED ITS RETURN, THE ONLY NEGATIVE ELEMENT BEING THE ATTACK ON THE RIGHTIST EMIGRANT HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN THE U.S. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CONTINUED A SPECIAL INTEREST AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CROWN AS EXPRESSED IN ITS OWN STATEMENTS BUT DISTANCED ITSELF AS COMPARED TO THE PRE-1948 PAST, CLAIMING NO JURIDICAL OR PROPRIETARY

RIGHTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CROWN. INDICATIONS CONTINUE TO BE THAT HUNGARY VERY MUCH WISHES TO PERPETUATE CROWN AS A SYMBOL OF HUNGARIAN NATIONHOOD.  
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